

STS-115 Pre-Mission Summary



International Space Station Assembly Mission 12A

The Shuttle [Atlantis](#) is undergoing preparations for the [STS-115](#) mission to resume construction of the International Space Station (ISS). The primary goal of ISS [Assembly Mission 12A](#) is to install the P3/P4 truss and deploy additional solar arrays. In addition, the STS-115 crew will deliver supplies and cargo to the [ISS Expedition 13 crew](#).

Atlantis is currently scheduled to launch from [Kennedy Space Center's](#) Launch [Pad 39B](#) on August 28, 2006 at about 4:04 P.M. EDT. The launch window extends from August 27th through September 13th and mission managers are discussing an option to move the launch date up to August 27th. The prime [Transoceanic Abort Landing](#) (TAL) site during launch will be Zaragoza, Spain, with Moron, Spain and Istres, France as alternates. Landing is scheduled for September 8th at Kennedy Space Center in Florida if an August 28th launch occurs. The alternate end-of-mission landing sites are Edwards Air Force Base in California and White Sands Space Harbor in New Mexico.

Weather climatology at Kennedy Space Center for an August afternoon launch indicates a 30-40% chance that weather [Flight Rule and/or Launch Commit Criteria](#) violations could delay the launch. The primary concerns are showers or thunderstorms in the vicinity of the [Shuttle Landing Facility](#) or launch pad. Zaragoza, Spain has a 20-25% chance of weather flight rule violations with unacceptable wind conditions the primary concern. However, only one of the three TAL sites requires acceptable weather conditions for launch. Tropical storms could potentially impact operations as the mission will be occurring during the peak of the hurricane season (mid-August to mid-September).

SMG's ascent/entry team consists of meteorologists Tim Garner, Wayne Baggett, Doris Hood, and Tim Oram. Tim Garner will be the Mission Lead Forecaster with Tim Oram assisting as a lead forecaster trainee; Wayne Baggett will be Assistant Lead and TAL Forecaster; and Doris Hood will be the SMG upper winds coordinator and will oversee weather-computing systems as the Techniques Development Unit Meteorologist.

Beginning two days prior to launch, forecasts may be obtained from the [Spaceflight Meteorology Group](#) (SMG). Additional information is available from [NASA Public Affairs Office](#).

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